

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising:
  - a microphone;
  - a storage section in which an output signal of the microphone is written and from which written signals are read out;
  - an input operating section for writing the output signal of the microphone in said storage section, for reading out signals stored in said storage section and for erasing the signals stored in the storage section; and
  - a control section for controlling the writing of the output signal of the microphone in said storage section based on an input from said operating section and for controlling readout of the signals stored in said storage section; said control section operating so that, if, when the signals written in said storage section is read out therefrom, an input for erasure is entered by said operating section, the signal being read out from said storage section is erased when, after reading out the signal from the storage section for a pre-set period, an input for erasure is again entered from said operating section.
2. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so that, if a signal being read out from the storage section is shorter than a pre-set value, the signal being read out from said storage section is read out in its entirety from said storage section and

so that, if subsequently an input for erasure is again entered from the operating section, the digital signal being read out from the storage section is erased from the storage section.

3. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said control section operates so that if, when the signals written in said storage section is read out therefrom, an input for erasure is entered by said operating section, the digital signal read out from said storage section is read out a pre-set number of times on end.

4. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so that, if the signal being read out from said storage section is longer than a pre-set value, a leading portion and a trailing portion of the signal read out from said storage section are read out from said storage section and so that, if subsequently an input for erasure is again entered from said operating section, the digital signal being read out from said storage section is erased therefrom.

5. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said control section operates so that if, when the signals written in said storage section is read out therefrom, an input for erasure is entered by said operating section, the digital signal read out from said storage section is read out a pre-set number of times on end.

6. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control section operates so that if, when

the signals written in said storage section is read out, an input for erasure is entered by said operating section, the erasure operation is discontinued if, after the digital signal read out from the storage section is read out for a pre-set time, an input other than an input for erasure is entered by said operating section.

7. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

    detection mechanism for detecting whether or not the power source is being supplied in a regular state; said control section operating so that, if, based on an output of the detection mechanism, the power source is judged to be not supplied in a regular state, signal readout from said storage section or writing of an output signal of the microphone in said storage section is terminated.

8. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein said detection mechanism includes a lid and a detection switch for detecting that said lid has opened said battery storage section; said control section operating so that, if the lid is detected by said detection switch to have opened said battery storage section, the writing operation of writing the output signal of the microphone to said storage section is stopped.

9. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein said control section operates so that writing of

the microphone output signal to said storage section is stopped and so that management data corresponding to the microphone output signal written in said storage section is written in said storage section.

10. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising:

an operation holding circuit for maintaining the operation of the device for a pre-set time if the opening of the battery housing section by said lid is detected by said detection switch.

11. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said operation holding circuit includes a capacitor charged by said battery.

12. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising:

a timer for maintaining the operation for a pre-set time if the opening of the battery housing section by said lid is detected by said detection switch.

13. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a display section and an illumination section for illuminating said display section based on an input from said operating section; said control section operating for lighting said illuminating section for a pre-set time based on an input from said operating section for illuminating said illuminating section.

14. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said control section includes a timer started based on an input from said operating section for initiating measurement of the lighting time of the illuminating section.

15. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein, if an input is again entered during measurement for a pre-set time, said timer re-measures the lighting time of the illuminating section as from the time said input is again entered.

16. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

an analog/digital converter for converting an output signal of the microphone into a digital signal and a digital/analog converter for converting the digital signal read out from the semiconductor memory into an analog signal.

17. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said storage section is a semiconductor memory.

18. A recording apparatus comprising:

a microphone;

a storage section for writing an output signal and management data for managing said output signal;

a detection mechanism for detecting whether or not the power source is being supplied in a regular state; and

a controller for controlling the writing of an output signal of the microphone in said storage section; said control section

discontinuing writing of the microphone output signal and writing the management data for the microphone output signal to said storage section if said detection mechanism finds that the power source is not being supplied in a regular state.

19. The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said detection mechanism includes a lid for opening/closing a battery housing section housing a battery and a detection switch detecting the opening of the battery storage section by said lid; said control section discontinuing the operation of writing the microphone output signal to said storage section if said detection switch detects the opening of said battery housing section by said lid.

20. The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 18 further comprising:

an operation holding circuit for maintaining the operation of the device for a pre-set time if said detection mechanism detects the opening of said battery housing section by said lid.

21. The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said operation holding circuit includes a capacitor charged by a battery housed in said battery housing section.

22. The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 20 further comprising:

a timepiece mechanism for maintaining the operation for a pre-set time if the opening of the battery holding section by said lid is detected by said operation holding circuit.

23. The recording apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said storage section is a semiconductor memory.

24. A recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising:

a microphone;

a storage section in which an output signal of the microphone is written and from which written signals are read out;

an input operating section for writing the output signal of the microphone in said storage section, for reading out signals stored in said storage section and for erasing the signals stored in the storage section;

a display section for displaying the information corresponding to a signal stored in said storage section;

an illuminating section for illuminating said display section; and

a control section for controlling the writing of the output signal of the microphone in said storage section based on an input from said operating section and for controlling readout of the signals stored in said storage section; said control section displaying the information corresponding to the signal stored in said storage section in said display section; said control section causing said illuminating section to illuminate said display section for a pre-set time based on an input from said operating section.

25. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in

claim 24 wherein said control section includes a timer started based on an input from said operating section for initiating measurement of the lighting time of the illuminating section.

26. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 25 wherein, if an input is again entered during measurement for a pre-set time, said timer re-measures the lighting time of the illuminating section as from the time said input is again entered.

27. The recording and/or reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein said storage section is a semiconductor memory.